

22nd IDPS Steering Group Meeting

Lisbon, Portugal

28 June 2019

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

“As a constituency of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), we welcome the IDPS Peace Vision 2019-2021, and we commit to working with our partners to realise the objectives therein.”

Lisbon Communique, 5th g7+ Ministerial Meeting, 26-27 June 2019

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Message from the IDPS Co-Chair, Minister Francis Kaikai

International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) Co-Chair and Minister of Planning and Economic Development in Sierra Leone, Dr Francis Kaikai, opened the meeting by introducing himself to the Steering Group attendees for the first time. He reflected on former Co-Chair Minister Nabeela Tunis’ commitment to and engagement with the IDPS, in addition to President Julius Maada Bio’s enthusiasm for the platform. He looked forward to working with the Steering Group members as part of the triangular partnership and noted the importance of utilising the IDPS structure to address peacebuilding and statebuilding challenges in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in g7+ countries, especially SDG 16. He added that as a founding member of the g7+, Sierra Leone had embraced the IDPS since its inception and was a long-time supporter and believer in it. He concluded by noting the importance of endorsing the *IDPS 2019-21 Peace Vision* at the meeting, of delivering constituency-level commitments, and of ensuring a successful launch of the *Peace Vision* on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York on 15 July. “The time has come to turn words into actions,” he noted about the IDPS, adding that more and better collaboration was needed among the three IDPS constituencies, particularly with g7+ members. Commending the collaboration between the IDPS and g7+ Secretariats in holding the meeting on the margins of the 5th g7+ Ministerial Meeting on 26-27 June, he concluded by noting that the desire for an invigorated IDPS was a collective one that needed the support of *all* IDPS members.

CSPPS update

Representatives spoke about the need to ensure that peacebuilding and statebuilding actions at country level are coordinated and that civil society is part of national development processes. The aim of such partnerships is to ensure that everyone can benefit from the SDGs, as part of more inclusive societies. CSPPS is involved in a range of activities at country level, in collaboration with members of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and other partners, to ensure the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of civil society to Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes, with a focus on SDG 16+. These projects have been ongoing in Côte d’Ivoire, Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Rwanda. One of the aims of this [Ready for Review](#) project is to

ensure that *New Deal* principles are mainstreamed into the VNR processes. A key lesson learned is that the VNRs should serve as a conversation starter in-country and that stakeholders should build on these dialogues beyond the HLPF. Separately, a [‘Voices of SDG16+ Video Campaign’](#) is focusing on learning about the experience of implementing SDG 16+ in different contexts and will be showcased at the HLPF. Other recent activities have included contributing to the [Rome Civil society Declaration on SDG 16+](#), finalising a research project with Oxfam Novib on the private sector, and fragile-to-fragile learning in Yemen. In addition, the CSPPS Secretariat shared a call for proposals on “Supporting civil society engagement in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace” to enable its members to pursue activities to develop and strengthen the voice and agency of civil society at national, regional and global levels. It has approved and funded related projects in Guinea Conakry, Nepal, Nigeria, Burundi and Yemen.

INCAF update. The INCAF co-chair spoke of the network’s commitment to the IDPS. He noted the importance of addressing root causes of conflict and fragility¹ to achieve the SDGs, and in this regard, support strong collaboration with the g7+ group is one of three key priorities for INCAF. He remarked upon INCAF’s scaling up of investment in fragile contexts, which received 69 per cent of earmarked Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2017. He added that the tripartite IDPS partnership is an important forum to advance the 2030 Agenda and that INCAF remains committed to the *New Deal* principles and commits to the *Peace Vision* moving forward, which is well aligned with INCAF priorities. Ensuring progress on the delivery of SDG 16 as part of Agenda 2030, good practice in relation to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus, operationalising the UN/World Bank’s *Pathways for Peace* report, and identifying innovative financing solutions are key areas of focus for INCAF.

g7+ update. A representative from the g7+ Secretariat spoke of the g7+ ministers’ strategic priorities of addressing root causes of conflict, promoting resilient economic foundations via job opportunities, and establishing a g7+ ministerial-level platform on natural resource management, as per the g7+ Lisbon Communique. He placed emphasis on the need for continued promotion of peer learning (via a Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation Action Plan), engaging in advocacy for impact, and the strengthening of the g7+ as a group by seeking observer status at the United Nations (UN). He noted that the Secretariat was engaging in activities with non-g7+ countries. It recently conducted a mission to Rwanda and plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rwandan government. Other recent activities include planning for a mission to Yemen, engaging on the World Bank’s Fragility, Conflict and Violence strategy, and holding three ministerial meetings: with justice ministers (19 June); on natural resources for resilience and development (25 June); and the 5th Ministerial Meeting (26-27 June). Moving forward, he said that the g7+ Secretariat would continue to engage with partners including the African Union, African Development Bank and multilateral financial institutions. He noted that support from Sweden and Finland was very encouraging and that the Secretariat was keen to increase tangible actions at country level.

¹ The Lisbon communique calls upon ‘the international community, the United Nations, the host countries and regional powers to genuinely help to address conflicts and their root causes’.

2. MEETING OUTPUTS AND DECISIONS

The meeting yielded a clear framework for the three IDPS constituencies to work together for the next two years towards the delivery of SDG 16+ in conflict-affected situations and the furtherance of the Sustaining Peace and Conflict Prevention Agendas. There were two related concrete achievements:

A. Endorsement of the *IDPS 2019-21 Peace Vision*

During the Steering Group meeting INCAF representatives negotiated final changes to the IDPS-wide commitments. The three IDPS constituencies committed to working together and endorsed the IDPS 2019-21 Peace Vision during the meeting.

B. Delivery of IDPS constituency commitments

Each of the three IDPS constituencies put forward constituency commitments to Steering Group members, one per thematic priority in the *Peace Vision*. Language on these was circulated by the IDPS Secretariat on 1 July² and finalised by silent procedure on 3 July. The constituency commitments were then included in the final version of the Peace Vision, which was officially closed and published on the IDPS website in [English](#) and [French](#) on 9 July.

Box 1. IDPS constituency commitments

g7+ commitments

National Cohesion. g7+ members commit to working on and sparing no efforts on promoting peace reconciliation, as a key component of national cohesion and invite development partners to assist their members to foster peace, reconciliation and country-led dialogue.

Gender and the WPS Agenda. g7+ members commit to enhancing gender equality and inclusivity in peacebuilding and statebuilding, recognising the country context and particular challenges faced in conflict-affected countries, including the lack of basic services.

Peace-promoting private sector. g7+ members commit to working with development partners to foster a peace-promoting private sector given that the majority of our countries' populations comprise young people, who can be a source of sustaining peace and development. Given the significant infrastructure needs, the g7+ calls upon development partners to meet these needs.

INCAF commitments

National cohesion. INCAF members commit to enhancing the preservation of civic spaces and amplifying the voices of civil society actors by proactively seeking to support the participation of diverse, local, regional and global civil society organisations in national dialogues and country planning processes.

² A French translation was circulated on 2 July 2019.

Gender and the WPS Agenda. INCAF members commit to pursuing opportunities to further the implementation of the WPS Agenda, including through new partnerships, new fora, and peer-to-peer workshops, bringing together technical experts and emerging professionals.

Peace-promoting private sector. INCAF members commit to supporting greater conflict-sensitivity within the UN Global Compact on Corporate Sustainability framework.

CSPPS commitments

National cohesion. CSPPS members commit to working with International Dialogue constituencies in advancing national cohesion. They commit to working at local level in particular, to reinforce capacity and the inclusion of civil society in ways that concretely seek to address and prevent conflict and to using Voluntary National Review processes as a starting point.

Gender and the WPS Agenda. CSPPS members commit to continue supporting the advancement of the inclusion agenda at both global and country levels, in political and peace processes, including by bringing women into decision-making processes and in particular by working to bring more youth and women's organisations into CSPPS country teams.

Peace-promoting private sector. CSPPS members commit to strengthening the capacities of g7+ country teams to constructively engage in critical dialogues around a peace-promoting private sector in ways that support engagement with their respective governments and development partners.

Key decisions were also made in relation to IDPS governance.

C. Steering Group governance

A number of procedural changes were made to the Steering Group governance document that was included as a room document. The agreed upon (new) language is the following:

The International Dialogue co-chairs may invite members of working groups, who are not already represented as regular members, to attend Steering Group meetings.

Candidates for Steering Group membership from g7+ and INCAF countries are nominated by their respective constituencies. Civil society uses its own consultative process and secretariat to nominate its representatives on the Steering Group.

Steering Group membership is endorsed or reconfirmed at the constituency-level.

The Steering Group convenes in person. The Steering Group as a whole will aim to meet in person every 6 months. Steering Group members will also engage virtually between meetings, and work in a consultative manner.

D. Implementation Working Group

A motion was put forward to discontinue the Implementation Working Group (IWG) in favour of ad hoc working groups, as necessary, with no objections.

E. *New Deal* processes at country level

A presentation from Joonwoo Park from UNDP's Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) country office opened with reflections on what the *New Deal* means at country level. He placed emphasis on it facilitating the capture of the real needs of local populations and its importance as a tool to support national development processes.

Box 2. Key milestones in the DRC's engagement with *New Deal* tools and principles

- ✓ 2012: Elaboration of national indicators for monitoring implementation of the *New Deal*.
- ✓ 2014: Validation of a fragility matrix.
- ✓ 2015: Validation of a roadmap for implementation of the *New Deal*.
- ✓ 2016: Development of the National Strategic Plan for Development (PNSD in French) which outlines the strategy for development of the DRC.
- ✓ December 2017: The South Korean government approves two million USD to accelerate *New Deal* implementation.
- ✓ July-September 2018: Elaboration of the third edition of a Fragility Assessment in 18 out of 26 provinces in collaboration with the government, CSPPS, and the National Institute of Statistics.
- ✓ October 2018: Drafting of a *New Deal* roadmap towards a country compact.
- ✓ February 2019: Elaboration of two Provincial Development Plans with *New Deal* principles.
- ✓ April 2019: Introduction of *New Deal* principles into the National Strategic Development Plan.

Future country plans include the elaboration of a country compact, in line with the *New Deal*, and facilitating its technical and political validation in addition to monitoring its implementation. Mr Park noted that it was essential to better capture people's voices in the DRC, particularly at provincial level, and that the *New Deal* and the HDP Nexus were critical tools being used to support the implementation of both national and provincial development plans. He added that stakeholders in the DRC had benefited from related learning from Sierra Leone as part of a seminar on 'Fragile-to-fragile experience sharing using *New Deal* tools to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda' in October 2018.

In a separate presentation, Christine Chan from UNDP headquarters provided an update on the *New Deal* Implementation Support Facility, which was created in 2013. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the facility has been responding to g7+ requests to support the integration of the SDGs into national development planning. Given this trajectory and the new mandate of the IDPS since 2016 with the *Stockholm Declaration*, the Facility was 're-profiled' in early 2018 to become the SDG Implementation Facility for Fragile and Conflict Settings. Achievements have included the following:

- Providing country support to mainstream *New Deal* principles into national and local development plans and frameworks (in Afghanistan, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan);
- Supporting fragility assessment processes (in Comoros, DRC, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Timor-Leste);

- Supporting five g7+ countries undertaking VNRs (in Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste); and
- Supporting fragile-to-fragile learning (in Sierra Leone, South Sudan).

UNDP is working to collate lessons learned on related work streams, including capturing learning on the development of compacts or mutual accountability frameworks in fragile contexts (including in relation to the delivery of the SDGs) and the integration of fragility assessments into national development planning. Early findings indicate that the *New Deal* has been novel in creating a new agenda, leading to a paradigm shift in thinking in responding to fragile and conflict-affected situations. This creates a starting point for in-country discussions on how to interrupt cycles of conflict and fragility, followed by a move towards a trajectory of growth and development. As such, the *New Deal* provides the language, concepts, and tools to create common ground for similarly affected countries to share their challenges and best practices.

The next phase of development of UNDP's facility is currently underway, whose priorities include supporting the political objectives of the *Peace Vision*, along with conflict prevention in line with the *Pathways for Peace* report, the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and the "New Way of Working" (which calls on humanitarian and development actors to work collaboratively together, based on their comparative advantages).

F. The IDPS partnership: how to work together more effectively

Representatives from the g7+ Secretariat expressed a clear wish to see more concrete IDPS actions taking place at country-level, while also acknowledging the complementarity between the direction defined at the Ministerial Meeting for the g7+ and the *Peace Vision* framework. This sentiment on the need to turn words into action was supported by Minister Kaikai who advised that IDPS members should focus on placing g7+ objectives "front and centre" in their work, with the aim of leaving no one behind.

A brainstorming session led to the following ideas on the three IDPS constituencies working together more effectively:

Providing support for g7+ countries

- Follow the lead of g7+ countries; leverage the IDPS' tripartite character to support activities and processes happening in these countries.
- Release solidarity statements on g7+ countries experiencing struggles.
- Travel to g7+ countries and organise IDPS events/activities there.
- Focus on addressing the concerns of youth at country-level.
- Utilise the IDPS platform to discuss peacebuilding and statebuilding issues with partners; such discussions are unlikely to happen without a push from an international platform to ensure that the different constituencies are speaking with one voice.
- Use the VNR processes as a starting point to advance country-level dialogues on peacebuilding and statebuilding.
- Work to raise the profile of the IDPS at country-level; mobilise political leadership to leverage further support for the IDPS.
- Support in-country dialogue processes.

Inclusion of civil society

- Seek to counter shrinking space for civil society in conflict-affected countries.
- Include national civil society members in all peacebuilding and statebuilding activities.

Implementation of the Peace Vision

- Develop action plan(s) on implementing the *Peace Vision*; define areas of collaboration.
- Collaborate with partners such as UNDP to operationalise the *Peace Vision* at country level;

Strengthening of communications

- Strengthen communication among and between the constituencies by sharing constituency ideas, plans and activities more frequently and by working *together*.
- Meet more regularly so that constituencies are informed of IDPS-related activities and processes.
- Share information via the quarterly IDPS Bulletin.
- Investigate alternative modes of communication such as including video conferencing and Zoom.

Strengthening of the IDPS partnership and activities

- Ensure coherence of constituency and individual members' actions by continuing to use the IDPS to engage in dialogue, fragile-to-fragile learning and exchanges of ideas.
- Stay engaged on SDG 16+ implementation and seek ways to bring collective added value to bear, rather than acting separately.
- Reinforce the IDPS partnership and principles of the *New Deal* in all IDPS activities.

Focusing on the IDPS thematic priorities

- Hold global political dialogue on threats and reinforcements to national cohesion.
- Continue to support country-owned and country-led national assessment processes (e.g. nationally owned resilience or cohesion assessments) that are linked to development planning on SDG delivery, in addition to political dialogue.
- Work together to support promising, catalytic, national women's peace efforts by providing capacity development, peer-to-peer learning, coaching/mentoring, and financial support and engaging in advocacy (with clear entry points in Somalia, Afghanistan and Yemen).
- Work with existing platforms and initiatives on the peace-promoting private sector theme to promote dialogue; create incentives for investment and consciousness around it with a particular focus on natural resource management.
- Engage more proactively on *Pathways for Peace* recommendations, the Sustaining Peace and Conflict Prevention Agendas, and the HDP Nexus.

3. NEXT STEPS

UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) July 2019

The HLPF, whose 2019 theme is “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” is a strategic priority for IDPS members because of its focus on SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies (in addition to SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 17).

Peace Vision launch

The *IDPS 2019-21 Peace Vision* will be officially launched at a ministerial-level side event ‘A Dialogue for Peace: Delivering SDG 16+ in conflict-affected situations’, on Monday, 15 July 2019, at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN in New York.

Moreover, the following HLPF events will be led by IDPS constituencies:

CSPPS

[Civil Society Driving Progress on SDG16+: Showcasing Best Practices](#) (July 10)

[Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action](#) (July 11)

[Empowering Civil Society for Reporting and Action on SDG16+](#) (July 12)

g7+

[SDG 16 in Conflict-affected Situations: Ambition Versus Reality](#) (July 17)

The IDPS Co-Chairs are looking forward to working together with the IDPS community to realise the *Peace Vision*.